

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

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FM USDEL GRENADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0072

C O N F I D E N T I A L GRENADA 0061

FOR THE SECRETARY; ARA AMB TODMAN; L/ARA - WILLIS

USOAS DEL 45

FROM USDEL OASGA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG OAS SHUM

SUBJ: COMMITTEE I MEETING JUNE 20

REF: A USDEL 15, GRENADA 28, B USDEL 39, GRENADA 55

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE I RESUMED DEBATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AT 11:30 AM, FOLLOWING BRIEF PLENARY SESSION (REPORTED SEPT-EL). ARGENTINE DELEGATE DELIVERED LONG, PHILOSOPHICAL DEFENSE OF GOA'S RECORD, ARGUING FOR UMPTEENTH TIME STATE OF NEAR-WAR REQUIRED SPECIAL TACTICS. COSTA RICA REP NAVAS (AMBASSADOR SILVA LEFT TODAY) WITHDREW FONMIN FACIO'S RESOLUTION REGARDING CUT IN RATIFYING STATES FOR SAN JOSE PACT, SAYING PROCESS MOVING WELL AND NO NEED TO ACCELERATE. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR RATRAY GAVE STRONG SPEECH IN DEFENSE OF IAHR AND APPEALED FORCEFULLY FOR GRANTING IT MORE FUNDS TO DO EVEN BETTER JOB.

AMBASSADOR MCGEE INTRODUCED RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF
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VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND US (SENT SEPT-EL). AMBASSADOR MCINTYRE OF TRINIDAD/TOBAGO NEXT LAUNCHED SOLID DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IAHR. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR MARCHAND DELIVERED CAREFULLY BALANCED SPEECH, SALUTING IAHR, NOTING PROCEDURAL ERRORS IN ITS WORK, ABHORRING TERRORISM AND ENDORSING DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. COMMITTEE I THEN RECESSED UNTIL 3:30 PM, WITH

CHAIRMAN (ARGENTINE FONMIN MONTES) ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AFTERNOON SESSION WOULD BE PROLONGED AS LATE INTO EVENING AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETEWORK OF COMMITTEE. TALK OF GA IS FRACAS IN DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN YESTERDAY IN WHICH SHOTS FIRED AND NEWSMEN'S FILM SEIZED (SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. COMMITTEE I BEGAN AT 11:30 AM. COSTA RICAN REPRESENTATIVE NAVAS WAS THE FIRST TO TAKE THE FLOOR. HE WITHDREW THE DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY FONMIN FACIO WHICH WOULD HAVE CALLED UPON THE OAS TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE NUMBER OF RATIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF PACT OF SAN JOSE. NAVAS COMMENTED THAT, IN VIEW OF IMPENDING RATIFICATION BY PERU, PROCESS SEEMED TO BE MOVING AHEAD, ELIMINATING NEED FOR AMENDMENT SUGGESTED EARLIER BY COSTA RICA.

3. ARGENTINE DEPUTY FONMIN ALLARA SPOKE NEXT TO INTRODUCE HIS COUNTRY'S DRAFT RESOLUTION (USDEL 15, GRENADA 0028). HE SAID THE ARGENTINES WERE MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO USE THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE TO HELP DEVELOP MEANS OF PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE TRADITIONAL LIBERAL DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS OBSOLETE, EXPLAINING THAT THE POWERS OF SOCIETIES OF THE PAST ARE NOT ADEQUATE TO TODAY'S REALITY. ALLARA TOOK THE POSITION THAT NO GOVERNMENT HAD THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE ANOTHER FOR ACTIONS TAKEN WITHIN ITS OWN CONFIDENTIAL

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JURISDICTION -- AND EVEN LESS SO WHEN THAT GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SPECIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING ITS INTERNAL SITUATION. WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ITSELF, HE EXPLAINED THAT IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A WORKING DOCUMENT WHICH PRESENTED THE IDEAS OF THE GOA FOR PURPOSES OF DEBATE. IT WAS NOT A TEXT NEGOTIATED WITH OTHERS AND THEREFORE HAD NO COSPONSORS. HE COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WAS GUILTY OF FLAGRANT, PERSISTENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE ALLARA ADMITTED THATTHERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CRIMINAL ABUSE OF AUTHORITY BY SECURITY FORCES, HE CHARACTERIZED THESE ACTS AS COMMON CRIMES, REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA'S STATEMENT (USDEL 39, GRENADA 0055).

4. AMBASSADOR RATTRAY OF JAMAICA THEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE TO DR. AGUILAR FOR HIS BRILLIANT PRESENTATION OF THE IAHC REPORT. HE SAID THE OAS SHOULD ENSURE THE IAHC THE RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR INCREASED AND EFFECTIVE ACTION. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ALL MEMBER STATES ESTABLISH AS A RULE IN FOREIGN RELATIONS THAT THEY WILL WELCOME IAHC VISITS WHENEVER THE

COMMISSION EXPRESSES AN INTEREST. HE NOTED THAT, WHILE STATES HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH TERRORISTS, THE COMMISSION HAD REASON FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO PRISONERS BECAUSE NOT ALL STATES IN THE REGION HAD ADEQUATE CHECKS AND BALANCES TO ENSURE HUMANE TREATMENT. RATTRAY CONCLUDED WITH A PLEA TO MEMBER STATES TO RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE IAHC AND TO USE SELF-RESTRAINT IN CRITICIZING ITS WORK.

5. AMBASSADOR MCGEE FOLLOWED WITH A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION WE HAVE COSPONSORED WITH COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. (FULL TEXT BY SEPTTEL.)

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6. THE AMBASSADOR OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (MCINTYRE) MADE A STRONG DEFENSE OF THE IAHC. HE WELCOMED PROPOSAL TO INCREASE ITS RESOURCES AND SAW FAVORABLE IMPACT IN IMPROVEMENT OF TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN AFFECTED AREAS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT COMMISSION DO ITS WORK TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEPLORED PREOCCUPATION WITH PROCEDURE IN GRENADA OASGA. HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENTS TO FOLLOW RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IAHC AND SAID TRINIDAD/TOBAGO WOULD SUPPORT ALL RELEVANT ACTIONS TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR MARCHAND TOOK THE FLOOR NEXT. HE DISCUSSED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND TERRORISM AND EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM BY DISTINGUISHING PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM A NORM OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CODE. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE TWO ISSUES REQUIRED SEPARATE TREATMENT AND THAT THE IAHC WAS NEEDED TO LOOK INTO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MARCHAND ANNOUNCED THAT PERU WOULD SOON SIGN AND RATIFY PACT OF SAN JOSE (AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.)

8. THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM BARBADOS (MARVILLE) MADE LAST SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE. BARBADOS WAS AGAINST TORTURE ON ANY PRETEXT WHATSOEVER, HE SAID, AND SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF INCREASING THE IAHC'S FUNDING. HE ASKED THAT HIS FONMIN'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS BE ENTERED ON THE RECORD.

9. THE 1ST COMMITTEE WILL RECONVENE AT 3 THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL TRY TO SCHEDULE AN EVENING SESSION, OVER OPPOSITION OF DEMOCRATIC STATES WHO DO NOT WANT TO SEE RESOLUTIONS PASSED HASTILY.

MCGEE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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